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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Government of Nunavut
Nunavut Kavamat
Gouvernement du Nunavut

April 25, 2019

Erin Reimer
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

RE: Notice of Screening for Bowdoin College's "Peat Expansion in Arctic Tundra (Baffin Island) – Pattern, Process and the Implication for the Carbon Cycle" Project Proposal (19YN016)

Dear Erin Reimer,

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut (GN), I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on Bowdoin College's "Peat Expansion in Arctic Tundra (Baffin Island) – Pattern, Process and the Implication for the Carbon Cycle" Project Proposal. The GN reviewed the proposed project and has prepared several comments for your consideration (see Appendix).

Should you have any concerns with our comments, please contact me by phone at 867-975-7808 or by email at cspencer@gov.nu.ca.

Qujannamiik,

[Original Signed By]

Chris Spencer
Avatiliriniq Coordinator
Government of Nunavut

cc: Alexandre Chaikine, Environmental Assessment Specialist, GN
(AChaikine@gov.nu.ca)
Phillip Innes, Project Assessment Archaeologist, GN (PInnes@gov.nu.ca)

Appendix

GN-01: Wildlife Disturbance	
Department	Environment
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Potential Wildlife Disturbance
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NIRB Notice of Screening 19YN016: Screening for “Peat Expansion in Arctic Tundra”• NIRB Application for Screening #190403
CONCERNS	
<p>The Project activities will not likely lead to the destruction of wildlife habitat. The potential adverse effects related to wildlife disturbance are predictable and can be mitigated using the standard best practices.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure that wildlife will not be harassed or disturbed.2. Cease Project activities when caribou are observed to be approaching the Project area.3. Maintain a minimum aircraft flight altitude of 610m above ground level and 600m horizontal distance from caribou.	

GN-02: Archaeological Concerns	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	19YN016 - Peat Expansion in Arctic Tundra (Baffin Island)
References	NIRB Notice of Screening
CONCERNS	
<p>The proponent proposes to access sampling sites to collect peat from several study areas in southern Baffin Island. The proponent also proposes the installation of meteorological stations at each sampling location, with belowground temperature sensors.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are recorded archaeological sites within the study areas. This however does not preclude the presence of additional unidentified sites or cultural features.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The study area west of Kimmirut has three archaeological sites, all located on Big Island. 2. The Nettilling Lake study area has eighty-seven (87) sites located on the western side of Nettilling Lake. 3. The Foxe Peninsula study area has four (4) archaeological sites. 4. The study area surrounding the City of Iqaluit has seventy-five (75) sites scattered along the coast, with a concentration of sites to the west of Iqaluit. 5. The study area south of Amadjuaq Lake has thirty-six (36) sites, with a concentration of sites south of Mingo Lake. <p>The Department of Culture and Heritage has concerns with regards to the presence of numerous archaeological sites located in the study areas. In addition, peat growth is often associated with archaeological features, such as semi-subterranean houses.</p>	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>On the basis that the study areas have not been the object of systematic archaeological surveys, the Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proponent exercises caution in their movements in order to avoid archaeological sites. 2. No activities be conducted in the vicinity (50 m buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities should immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut Territorial Archaeology Office. 	

3. The area be visually inspected prior to the installation of the meteorological stations and temperature sensors in order to avoid any archaeological sites.
4. Peat not be collected within or near (30 m) any archaeological features.

All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected by law. The applicant must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage resource sites are disturbed in the course of their activities. No person shall alter, or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove any artifact from an archaeological site. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.